

S-83
Harrington
Mount Vernon vicinity
private

c. 1750-1760

Located east of the Wicomico River and south of what is now called Stone Creek is the mid eighteenth-century house known as "Harrington." Thomas Holbrook is credited with the construction of this four-room plan house during the years following his acquisition of the family lands in 1741. The Holbrook plantation was assessed in 1798, and the property was described as,

Situated within one mile of Wicomico River near the Lower Ferry, a Dwelling House of wood considerably injured by worms two story 30 by 28 feet finished in plain order with five windows 64 inches by 28 inches, two windows 64 inches by 36 inches, seven windows 54 inches by 28 inches, one window 44 inches by 28 inches, four windows 24 inches by 20 inches, very old kitchen 47 by 20 feet, smoke house, old 12 by 12 feet, milk house 8 by 6 feet, lumber house, old, 24 by 12 feet...

The plantation lands included close to one-thousand acres, part of which was a tenant farm located near the "Witch Bridge" that was improved by an old log dwelling, 16 by 14 with end shed of 8 feet, and a log barn measuring 20 by 20. The tenant farm was operated by Samuel Covington.

Although the house was described as being finished in "plain order," this phrase probably related only to the exterior. The interior, on the other hand, was fitted with finely crafted mid eighteenth-century Georgian paneling that has survived largely unaltered. The first floor is divided into four unequal sized rooms with the stair hall located in the southwest corner. East of the stair hall is the largest room which was finished with exposed beaded floor joists, raised-panel wainscoting, and a well-crafted paneled chimney breast. Fluted pilasters flank the group of four raised panels over the hearth. The other two rooms were fitted with fireplaces as well. Attached to the east end of the old house is a modern gambrel-roofed addition.

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9-100

Form 10-200
(Rev. 6-72)UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Maryland
COUNTY:	Somerset
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE:	

1. NAME
COMMON:
The Wagner Farm
AND/OR HISTORIC:
Harrington

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
(See continuation sheet No. 1)			
CITY OR TOWN:	CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:		
Princess Anne	First		
STATE:	CODE:	COUNTY:	CODE:
Maryland	24	Somerset	033

3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify): _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY		
CURRENT OWNER:		
Dr. & Mrs. Robert L. McFarlin		
STREET AND NUMBER:		
Harrington		
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE:
Princess Anne	Maryland	24

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION		
COURT RECORD, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.		
Somerset County Court House		
STREET AND NUMBER:		
Somerset Avenue		
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE:
Princess Anne	Maryland	24

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS				
TITLE OF SURVEY:				
DATE OF SURVEY:	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> State	<input type="checkbox"/> County	<input type="checkbox"/> Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE:		

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

S-83

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Harrington stands at the end of a .25 mile lane extending north from Polk's road at a point .45 miles east of the intersection of the Whitehaven Ferry Road, Polk's Road, and a connecting road to Maryland Highway 362.

It is a two story, mid eighteenth century, frame farm house accurately described in the 1798 tax records as "finished in plain order." Positioned roughly north-south on the property, the house measures approximately 30 feet by 30 feet and with the gable height it approaches the proportions of a cube. The original part of the foundation apparently illustrates an early form of common or American bond with two to three rows of stretchers between rows of headers. It is punctuated on the south facade by an original opening 1 foot square, serving a basement under the eastern one half of the house.

A view of the main (south) facade reveals a lateral entry on the west and hints at a floor plan which is, in the words of Marcus Whiffen of Colonial Williamsburg, "essentially that of the London terrace house."¹ A lower shore parallel is illustrated by Dr. Henry C. Forman in his book, Tidewater Maryland Architecture and Gardens, in the floor plan of the Samuel Adams House.² Equally surprising are the two much larger windows serving the Great Room to the right (east) of the door. Although "remodeling" efforts of the late eighteenth hundreds and early nineteenth hundreds resulted in the removal of almost all of the original siding and replacement of the original window frames and sash with Victorian windows, the current restoration (now 90 percent complete) has reproduced the original beaded siding and interpreted the window frames according to evidence found in the framing. The upstairs windows on all facades are interpreted as six over six sash with the exception of the two attic windows on the west gable. These are roughly symmetrical with the two windows of each floor below them. The lower windows have been interpreted as nine over six sash. The north facade has two windows on the second story and a window (east) and door (west) on the first, with a cellar entrance on the east. The eastern gable originally consisted of two small attic windows, two upstairs chamber windows, a lower window, and a door leading from the Warming Room. With the exception of the door, these openings have been altered to accommodate the circa 1890 wing which has been removed and replaced with a wing of compatible architectural design.

¹Marcus Whiffen, The Eighteenth Century Houses of Williamsburg, Colonial Williamsburg, Inc., 1960, pp. 50, 51. See also figure 90, the Palmer House plan, p. 142.

²Henry Chandler Forman, Tidewater Maryland Architecture and Gardens, p. 73, bottom left illustration.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) #1

STATE Maryland		S-83
COUNTY Somerset		
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	

(Number all entries)

The Wagner Farm

2. LOCATION, continued

In the vicinity of Mount Vernon, .45 miles east of the intersection of Whitehaven Ferry Road with Polk's Road and a connecting road to Maryland 362, near a settlement called Widgeon. (See U.S. Geological Survey map, 1950 revised 1962.)

7. DESCRIPTION, continued

Unlike the exterior the interior has remained remarkably intact. Approximately 90 to 95 percent of the original paneling and other woodwork remains. Entry through the broad front door reveals the passageway paneled with fielded paneling to dado level, a characteristic of the Great Room to the right and a small northwest room interpreted as a study. A closed-string staircase rises to a small landing before ascending further to the upstairs passage. The slender balusters have a characteristic square separating the upper two thirds from the lower third and this form is echoed in the newel post.

There is a corner fireplace in each of the three lower rooms. The Great Room chimney breast is characterized by fielded panels flanked by simple fluted pilasters with an asymmetrical group of panels to the right. The original study mantel is paneled on either side. Evidence in the laths and framing indicated only a chair rail and baseboard for the northeast room which was presumably a Warming Room. Exposed, beaded beams characterize both the upstairs and down, although evidence suggests that a downstairs plaster ceiling was applied within the eighteenth century. The present restoration reproduces the first colors, although evidence suggests that the woodwork was originally unpainted. Upstairs, four chambers open on to a small passageway. Although the Great Room Chamber is by far the largest, a small corner fireplace is found in the northwest or study chamber. Upstairs woodwork consists of chair rail and baseboard.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian☐ 16th Century☒ 18th Century☐ 20th Century☐ 15th Century☐ 17th Century☐ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal

☐ Education☐ Political☐ Urban Planning☐ Prehistoric☐ Engineering☐ Religion/Phi-☐ Other (Specify)☐ Historic☐ Industry

osophy

☐ Agriculture☐ Invention☐ Science☒ Architecture☐ Landscape☐ Sculpture☐ Art

Architecture

☒ Social/Human-☐ Commerce☐ Literature

itarian

☐ Communications☐ Military☐ Theater☐ Conservation☐ Music☐ Transportation

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Harrington's two-fold significance is found both in its inherent architectural merit and in the role played by the builder, Thomas Holbrook, in the history of Somerset County. One of the very few existing two story frame eighteenth century farm houses of the area, Harrington visibly illustrates several unusual architectural features, possibly representing connecting links between urban and rural Georgian building styles.

Available records indicate that the land on which the house was built was patented to a Thomas Holbrook, relative of the builder, in 1682 and remained in the Holbrook family for over 120 years.^{3,4,5} Thomas Holbrook, described in contemporary records as a "plaster" and "gentlemen," was apparently active in the civic affairs of Somerset County. He was Deputy Commissioner of Somerset County,⁶ a Vestryman of Stepney Parish,⁷ and in July of 1775 was one of those from Somerset County who signed the Declaration of the Association of Freeman of Maryland.⁸ A minor Revolutionary incident occurring on the property and recorded in the Archives of Maryland (1781) serves to illustrate a part of the day to day life of the Colonial militiaman.

³Liber BC and GS No. 21, folio 99-101.

⁴Plats, box 25, folder 13, Hall of Records.

⁵Deeds, 0-39, folio 472, Somerset County Courthouse.

⁶Chancery Records, Liber 13, folio 371.

⁷Stepney Parish Vestry Ledger, 1768-1775. Microfilm, Wicomico County Library.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Whiffen, Marcus, The Eighteenth Century Houses of Williamsburg.
Colonial Williamsburg, Inc., 1960. pp. 50-51: see
also figure 90, the Palmer House plan, p. 142.
Forman, Henry Chandlee, Tidewater Maryland Architecture and
Gardens, p. 73, bottom left illustration.
Liber BC and GS No. 21, folio 99-101.
Plats, box 25, folder 13, Hall of Records.
Deeds 0-39, folio 472, Somerset County Court House.
Chancery Records, Liber 13, folio 371.

(See continuation sheet No. 1)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	38° 15' 52"	75° 45' 38"			
NE	38° 15' 50"	75° 45' 27"			
SE	38° 15' 30"	75° 45' 25"			
SW	38° 15' 27"	75° 45' 35"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 47.25 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

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11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Dr. Robert L. McFarlin, Chairman, Wicomico County Committee

ORGANIZATION:

Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

8/19/74

STREET AND NUMBER:

Harrington, Poik's Road

CITY OR TOWN:

Princess Anne

STATE

Maryland

CODE

24

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Name

Arthur C. Townsend

Title State Historic Preservation
Officer

Date

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

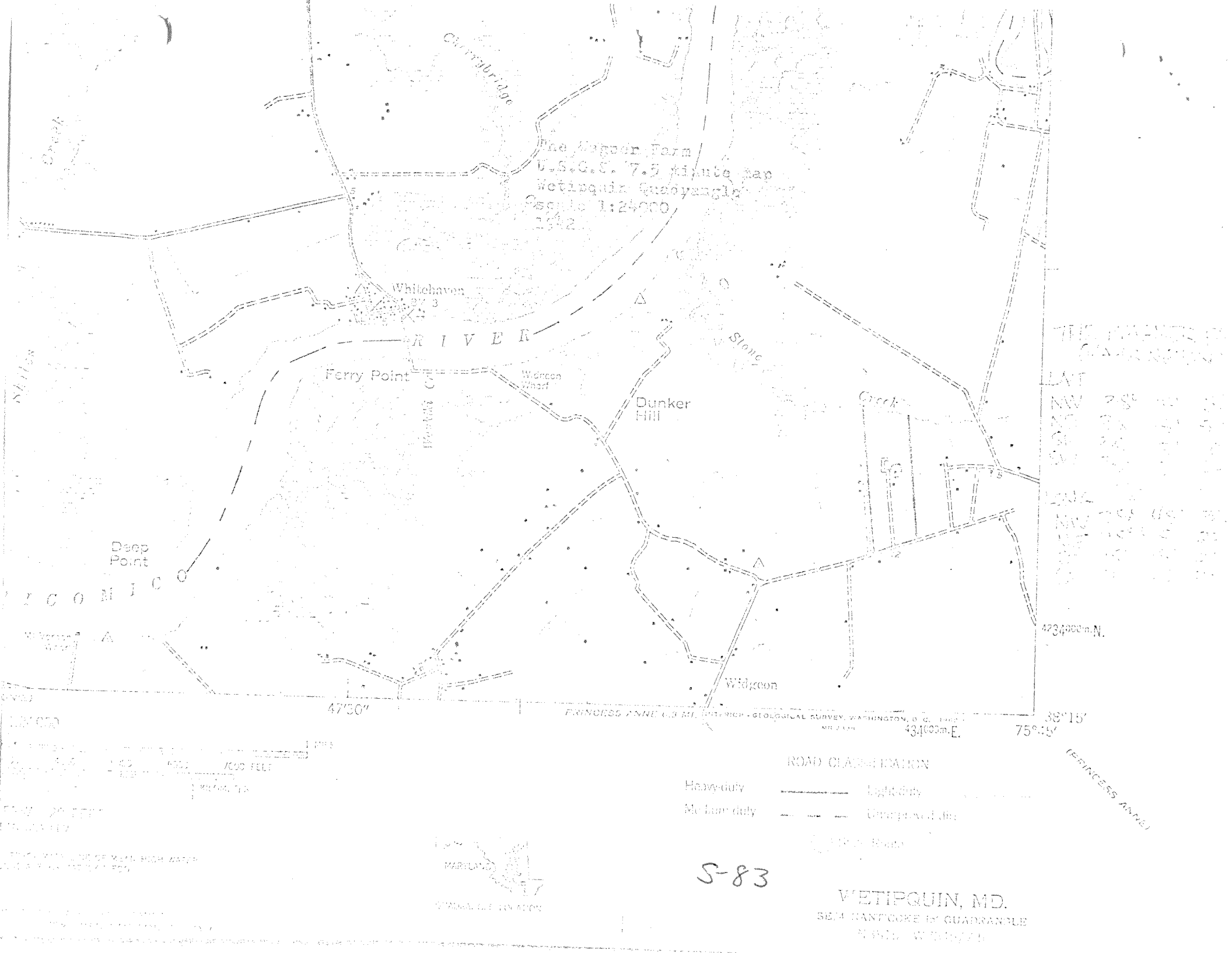
Director, Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date





Harrington
Near Allen, Somerset County
Stair Case
3/84 Paul Touart
Neg./Md. Historical Trust

S-83



Harrington

S-83

Near Allen, Somerset County

2nd Floor Stairwell

3/84 Paul Touart

Neg./Md. Historical Trust



Harrington
Near Allen, Somerset County
11/83 Paul Touart
Southeast Elevation
Neg./Md. Historical Trust

S-83



Harrington
Near Allen, Somerset County
Parlor Paneling
3/84 Paul Touart
Neg./Md. Historical Trust

S-83



Harrington

S-83

Near Allen, Somerset County

2nd Floor Northwest Bedroom

3/84 Paul Touart

Neg./Md. Historical Trust



Harrington
Near Allen, Somerset County
South Elevation
3/84 Paul Touart
Neg./Md. Historical Trust

S-83



S-83
HARRINGTON